

Tuyuca language

Tuyuca^[3] (also **Dochkafuara**, **Tejuca**, **Tuyuka**, **Dojkapuara**, **Doxká-Poárá**, **Doka-Poara**, or **Tuiuca**) is an Eastern Tucanoan language (similar to Tucano). Tuyuca is spoken by the Tuyuca, an indigenous ethnic group of some 500-1000 people, who inhabit the watershed of the Papuri River, the Inambú River, and the Tiquié River, in Vaupés Department, Colombia, and Amazonas State, Brazil.

Contents

Grammar

Phonology

- Vowels
- Consonants
 - Contrasts
 - Bilabial contrasts
 - Alveolar contrasts
 - Variation
 - Nasal assimilation
 - Nasal harmony
- Suprasegmental features
 - Tone
 - Nasalization
- Phonetic distribution and syllabic structure
 - Restrictions
- Morphophonemics

References

External links

Tuyuca	
<i>Docapúaraye</i>	
Native to	Colombia, Brazil
Native speakers	(1,000 cited 1983–2006) ^[1]
Language family	Tucanoan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eastern ▪ Central ▪ Bara ▪ Tuyuca
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tue
Glottolog	tuyu1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tuyu1244) Tuyuca ^[2]

Grammar

Tuyuca is a postpositional agglutinative subject-object-verb language with mandatory type II evidentiality.^[4] Five evidentiality paradigms are used: visual, nonvisual, apparent, second-hand, and assumed, but second-hand evidentiality exists only in the past tense, and apparent evidentiality does not occur in the first-person present tense.^[5] The language is estimated to have 50 to 140 noun classes.^[6]

Phonology

Tuyuca's consonants are /p t k b d g s r w j h/, and its vowels are /i ɿ u e a o/, with syllable nasalization and pitch accent occurring as well.^[5]

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ	u
Low	e	a	o

Consonants

		Labial	Coronal	Palatal	Velar
Stop	voiceless	p	t	s	k
	voiced	b ~ m	d ~ n	dʒ ~ ɿ	g ~ ɳ
Continuant	w ~ ɿ	ɬ ~ r ~ ɻ		j ~ ɳ	h ~ ɿ

Contrasts

The following words show some of the consonant contrasts.^[7]

Bilabial contrasts

/pakó/ 'mom'
 /bapá/ 'plate'
 /wapá/ 'payment'

Alveolar contrasts

/botéa/ 'a fish'
 /bodé/ 'dragonfly'
 /bosé/ 'party'
 /boré/ 'whitening'

Velar and palatal contrasts

/bɪkó/ 'ant-eater'
 /bɪgó/ 'aunt'
 /hoó/ 'plantain'
 /joó/ 'thread'

Variation

- Voiceless plosives /p, t, k/ have aspirated variants that tend to occur before high vowels but not near voiceless vowels. There are a few degrees of the amount of aspiration.
- Preglottalized variants of /b, d/ occur together at the onset.
 - Preglottalized forms of [m, w, ɿ, j, ɳ, dʒ] occur in the onset and are in free variation with their plain counterparts.

- Prenasal variants of /b, d, g/ occur after nasal vowels and before oral vowels: /k̬ɪmbai/ [k^hɪmbai].^[8]

Nasal assimilation

- Voiced consonants /b, d, g, r, w, j/ have nasal variants at the same place of articulation before nasal vowels: [m, n, ɳ, ɳ, ɿ, ɿ].
 - The /j/ can also surface as ɳ before high nasal vowels.
- The /h/ also has a nasalized variant that occurs before nasal vowels.

Nasal harmony

Segments in a word are either all nasal or all oral.

/waa/ 'to go'

/wāā/ 'to illuminate' (the /w/ is nasal)

Note that voiceless segments are transparent.

/əkə/ 'choke on a bone'

/wāt̪i/ 'demon'

See further remarks regarding the oral/nasal nature of affixes in the Morphophonemics section.

Suprasegmental features

Tuyuca's two suprasegmental features are tone and nasalization.

Tone

There is a high tone (H) and a low tone (L) in Tuyuca. The phonological word has only one high tone, which may occur in any syllable of the word. The low tone has two variants: a mid-tone, which occurs in words with at least three syllables in free variation, and the low tone, which occurs in internal syllables that have [i] that is contiguous to the high tone but not preceded by a low tone.

- The accent is the same as high tone.
- The tone is contrastive in (C)VV syllables.

/dúi/ 'blood'

/dʒí/ 'mud'

- (C)VCV words, except for loanwords, have the tone on the second syllable.

/eté/ 'parakeet'

/bésa/ 'table' (← Portuguese 'mesa')

Nasalization

Nasalization is phonemic and operates at the root level.

/sĩã/ 'to kill'
/sia/ 'to tie'

Phonetic distribution and syllabic structure

A syllable is any unit that may take tone and has a vocalic nucleus, regardless of whether or not it has a consonant before it.

Restrictions

- /g/ and /r/ do not occur word-initially
- /gu/ and /wu/ do not occur.
- No VV string starts with /u/.
- Multisyllabic VVV strings occur, but not all combinations of vowels are attested. /u/ is always last in such strings.
- (C)V may be optionally be pronounced with aspiration, with the same quality as the preceding vowel, when the syllable is both unstressed and before syllables with voiceless onsets.^[9]

Morphophonemics

All affixes are in one of the two classes:

1. Oral affixes that may undergo nasalization, like the plural morpheme *-ri*: /sopéri/ 'marks'
2. Affixes that are intrinsically oral or nasal and are not changed.

When a nasal CV suffix occurs and C is a continuant or a vibrant /r/, regressive nasalization is undergone by the preceding vowel.

References

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External links

- [Tuyuca language dictionary online from IDS](https://web.archive.org/web/20100819194552/http://lingweb.eva.mpg.de/ids/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100819194552/http://lingweb.eva.mpg.de/ids/>) (select simple or advanced browsing)
- [ELAR archive of Brazilian Tuyuca language documentation materials](https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI1029734) (<https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI1029734>)
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